

# FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN THE FOLKS

## Sleeps on the Porch.

**W**ITH the temperature at nearly zero, Miss Margaret Dwyer of Albany, N. Y., again occupies her cot on the rear piazza of her home on Ten Broeck street.

When asked the all-important question—Why? Miss Dwyer responded: "First, because I cannot sleep well indoors and can in open air. When I returned from last summer's vacation it was very warm in the city, so one night when I could not sleep at all I got up and went out on the porch, where I easily fell asleep on a couch. After that I just drifted into the habit. This has been a pretty cold winter, but I have not been at all cold in bed on the back porch and have spent several of the coldest nights out this winter. I feel fine in the morning and did not have a cold until my uncle interfered." At this point Miss Dwyer's uncle, John J. Jansen, explained that coming in one blizzard night, with his clothes covered with snow, he absolutely refused to let his niece sleep in her exposed bed. A few days after that she developed a cold and the uncle regretted his interference and believed that had he allowed Miss Dwyer to pursue her own course she would never have had her one cold.

The bed that Miss Dwyer sleeps in is an ordinary cot, with woven wire springs, situated against the partition which separates her uncle's from his neighbor's back porch. Her bedding consists of a pair of fleece-lined sheets, a rose blanket, a comfortable and a pillow. She disrobes in the house, dons a nightdress, a bath robe, a pair of knitted booties and a hood, which, while it protects her ears, leaves her face entirely exposed. Thus attired, she seeks a couch almost under the broad expanse of the heavens. Her fancies are somewhat poetic and she says it is the most sublime sensation to watch the myriads of stars overhead until sleep closes the eyes.

## Function for Washington's Birthday.

**A** UNIQUE card party for February 22 is a military euchre. Buff and blue decorations are profusely used in draping doors, for arranging fan effects above windows, trimming light fixtures, columns and balustrades, and otherwise brightening up the rooms with the colonial colors. Flags representing the original thirteen states figure about conspicuously also, waving over mantels and from doorway corners, with balls of tiny ones swinging under chandeliers, in archways, or wherever a projecting bit of woodwork offers a place to suspend them from, says a writer in the February Housekeeper. The floral adornment consists of the old-fashioned February flowers of blue hyacinths and gay yellow daffodils growing in buff and blue paper-covered pots, while the same blossoms cut are placed in antique vases and bouquet holders and distributed in such a way as to show to the best advantage and brighten things with their cheery presence. Candle-light is the proper illumination for a colonial affair, and if convenient to have enough of candles should be the only light in evidence, and the older the candlesticks and candelabra containing them the better it is from a suggestive standpoint. A few revolutionary guns, swords, bayonets and other war relics are prominently displayed to lend a martial flavor to the environment. A bust of Washington crowned with laurel, or a picture wreathed with it, should have a conspicuous place, also some pictured scenes of colonial days.

The playing tables are covered in alternate buff and blue; the commencement of the game and the table changes are announced by bugle calls sounded by a little page gotten up in powdered hair and

colonial attire. A pair of colonial maids in white wigs and princess gowns are relegated to the role of keeping tally, which is done in an entirely original style. They are supplied with innumerable wee British soldier dolls, which they deliver instead of the usual punches to the players who win points, and who are furnished with small roofless forts of cardboard for keeping them in until the game is ended.

## A Narcissus Wedding.

**A** NARCISSUS wedding is described in the February number of The Housekeeper. Every corner of the house was filled with branches of pussy willow, which had, as the children say, "taken its gray bonnet off to show its golden curls." Tall vases and moss-covered bags were filled with it, and wherever a sufficiently springlike background was provided, there was a vase or a bowl of lovely Narcissus blooming. Pussy willow branches were tied with white satin ribbons all the way down the balustrade, and the door into the drawing room, instead of being garlanded, was outlined with willow branches, while a bunch of Narcissus was fastened at each side.

In the drawing room itself, the willow branches were mingled with heaps of moss and delicate green ferns, which gave a sweet background for the frail white blossoms placed everywhere, and out in the dining room the table had a lace scarf stretched over pale green down the center of the long table, while Narcissus blossoms were scattered over the cloth, and thrust here and there, delicately, through the meshes of the lace. There were no candles on the table, for the old French idea of closing out the sunshine to have an artificial light did not seem to suit the spring flowers which gave the keynote to the arrangements. On the contrary, every window was thrown wide, and the balmy spring breeze came dancing in through the window.

The ceremony took place in church, where the tapers on the altar, the white and gold draperies of the sanctuary and the heaps of Narcissus blossoms, made a most beautiful picture. Instead of white ribbons to enclose the pews, there was a long feathery green vine, fastened at each pew door by an unlighted taper, which, however, was lighted by a torch boy as soon as all the guests were seated, and the group of choristers in the sanctuary, each holding his lighted torch, and wearing the purple gown and lace surplice of ancient Rome, added no little to the beauty of the picture.

## Duty to Mothers-in-Law.

**T**HE Indiana supreme court announces the doctrine that a mother-in-law is of right entitled to dutiful conduct on the part of her son-in-law, and especially when she trusts him as a son. The decision was rendered in the case of Mrs. Emeline K. Casper of Noble county against Don K. Hitchcock, her son-in-law, whom she had intrusted with money which he was to lend for her.

Mrs. Casper charged in the complaint that Hitchcock had loaned her money to a fellow lodge man, more on the strength of the secret order relations of the lender and the borrower than on knowledge of the latter's ability to pay, and did not take reasonable precautions to learn whether the borrower was embarrassed financially.

Acting on the advice of Hitchcock, Mrs. Casper deferred pushing the borrower to recover her money until eight years' interest had become due and the borrower had lost his farm through a mortgage foreclosure. Hitchcock then denied liability, and she sued to recover from him. The court holds

that the loan was made on worthless security and, as Hitchcock's mother-in-law had trusted him implicitly and through his advice finally lost the money, she was entitled to recover the amount from him.

Being her son-in-law, says the court, he owed her a duty, and when she suffered through his carelessness he should make the loss good.

## Sorber's Plan of Campaign.

**M**AYOR SORBER of Gowrie, Ia., a town of 1,000 inhabitants, is determined to accomplish one of two things to insure for himself a niche in the temple of fame before the year 1904 shall vanish into the irretrievable past.

He is, to use the language of our city hall, about to "play both ends against the middle." He wins no matter which way the game goes.

Mayor Sorber has issued a proclamation that every woman of marriageable age, whether she has had experience in matrimony or not, and provided she is now free to make a choice, must take advantage of the privilege afforded her by leap year and propose to some eligible man, or be fined at the end of the year not less than \$1 nor more than \$5.

On the other hand, the bachelor or widower who refuses a fair proposition of marriage during the year will be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction shall be fined not less than \$10 nor more than \$20 for each offense. He will not be permitted to plead indisposition, want of affection or poverty as a defense. The fact that he is eligible, that he has been proposed to, and that he is unmarried, will be regarded as prima facie evidence of his guilt. If he should prove stubborn and be convicted of two or three offenses of this character he is liable to be regarded as an habitual offender and be subject to even more severe penalties.

There is a reasonable probability that the maids, young men, widows, and widowers of Gowrie will comply with the terms of the mayor's proclamation, but, should they fail to do so, the fines collected will be used to establish a public library. In any event, therefore, the mayor will have achieved something for which he will always be remembered—not always gratefully, perhaps, but nevertheless always remembered.

The alliances formed under the conditions of his proclamation may not be the happiest in all cases, and the public library project may give rise to discordant feelings among the inhabitants, but nothing can prevent the name of Sorber from standing out in local history for generations to come as that of a public man who tried hard to do right according to his lights.—Chicago Inter Ocean.

## Ribbon Hair Ornaments.

**E**VERY woman has ribbon ornaments for the hair, more or less elaborate, according to the occasion on which they are to be worn. Dainty rosettes of long loops are made of a number of loops of gauze ribbon, in soft colors. The idea in wearing so many of these ornaments is to get a note of becoming color to the face to offset the effect of a white gown, for white gowns are worn morning, noon and night now. The flush of a pink rosette, the glow of a red one, the bright gleam of a yellow ornament or the warm tone of some other color, lends a brightness to the wearer of a white frock; and the woman of taste selects the color that will best bring out the beauties of her complexion, the luster and tint of her eyes and the warm or bright lights in her hair.

Some of the ornaments are of numbers

of short ends of narrow satin ribbon with tiny bows in the top of each end. They are crowded together and give something of the effect of a cluster of fragile flowers and something of that of little butterflies.

Another ornament has loops of narrow ribbon tied in a knot in the tip of each loop. This has the effect of a novelty and is pretty, too. Besides, it makes the loops stand out as they would not do without the knot.

These looped effects are newer, but scarcely more popular than the floral effects, where the green cup of a rose is used to hold the fold of a bit of satin that represents indifferently the bud of a red rose or a blue one. These buds are wired, and narrow ribbon is loosely twisted about the wire, giving a careless and graceful appearance to the ornament.

A fad of the day is for flower effects where several small loops of narrow ribbon are gathered on the tips of ribbon ends and fitted into a green rose cup, where the ends of the loops join each other. Some of these little loops are knotted in the middle, and as little like flowers as these loops are, the effect is of flowers with a little air of originality and lightness which the solid satin flowers of last season did not possess.

Large roses and half-blown buds of the solid satin flowers are in vogue, to nestle among curling locks, and these are usually spangled with gold or silver or rhinestones.

Feather nigrettes are usually decorated with jewels, and antique jewels and barrettes are worn in the hair, as well as frame buckles of rhinestones and other jewels.

## Women in Various Activities.

Women are now being substituted for men in the Italian postal service. Sig. Gaimiti, minister of posts and telegraphs, is responsible for the change.

The highest salaried woman at the pension bureau is Miss Annie Shirley, whom Commissioner Ware has promoted to a position which pays \$1,800 a year.

Sarah Roe Pearson, who died at La Valle, Wis., the other day at the age of 87, leaves ninety-eight direct descendants. Mrs. Pearson was English by birth and settled in Wisconsin in 1848.

"Granny" Loggins, the oldest woman in Georgia, has just passed her 120th birthday. She is now quite ill at her home in Gillsville and fears are entertained that she cannot long survive.

Mrs. Cornelia Osgood Tyler, wife of a retired officer of the United States army and prominent in Washington society, has completed a comic opera, called "A Venetian Romance," which is soon to be produced.

The German empress has a very large and valuable collection of jewels, but is said to prize above everything the diamond which was found in Napoleon's triangular hat, under a tree, after the battle of Waterloo.

Women in Russia are to be given the chance of taking up agriculture as a regular profession. The government is founding an agricultural high school for women, whose students will administer the crown domains on equal terms with men.

Mrs. Caroline Purdy of Chicago makes a good living baking cookies. She began by making three dozen a day, and soon had orders for 300 dozen a week. According to her own calculation she has during the last eight years turned out something like 1,500,000.

Miss Lavinia McConnell, daughter of James S. McConnell of Chicago, and a niece of Edward H. Conger, United States minister to China, is living at present with Minister Conger and his family in the palace of the American legation at Peking, and has been received into exclusive diplomatic circles of the Imperial city.

Dr. Lillias Hamilton, one of the first English women to take her medical degree, afterward became famous by her appointment as medical adviser to the amir of Afghanistan, to whose court she went, principally to teach the ladies how to wear European dress. Dr. Hamilton has now given up medicine for the time being and has emigrated to South Africa, where she intends to rear mules on a large scale.

